

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO SERIES

*****SPECIAL ISSUE*****

X ACTION 09-04
 NOTICE

ISSUE DATE: 09/17/2009
DISPOSAL DATE:

PROGRAM CATEGORIES: WIA

To: Workforce Development Board Directors

From: Roberta Gassman
Secretary

RE: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009: Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Summer Youth Employment Program **waiver of performance measures and other provisions for youth who participate in work experience only after September 30, 2009.**

PURPOSE: This Administrator's Memo provides information on the approved waiver of performance measures and other provisions for youth who participate in work experience only after September 30, 2009.

REFERENCES:

- U.S Department of Labor (DOL) Training and Employment Guidance Letter (TEGL) 14-08 and 14-08, Change 1; and
- Department of Workforce Development (DWD)/Division of Employment and Training (DET) Administrator's Memo 9-01.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Labor issued TEGL 14-08 on March 18, 2009, that provided guidance to states on implementation of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. That guidance included provisions regarding waivers to support youth services under the Recovery Act. DWD requested and received a waiver of the youth performance measures for out-of-school youth ages 18 – 24 served with Recovery Act funds who participate in work experience outside the summer months, i.e., for the period October 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010. In DWD/DET Administrator's Memo 09-01, WDBs were given design flexibility in determining whether the 12 month follow-up period would be required and determining the type of objective assessment and Individual Service Strategy (ISS) for youth served with Recovery Act funding during the summer months only (May 1 – September 30, 2009). In order to continue giving WDBs this design flexibility beyond the summer months, DWD requested and received waiver approval for youth participants served through the WIA youth program funds made available through the Recovery Act for the period October 1, 2009, through March 31, 2010 only.

POLICY:

The approved waivers only apply to **current or new** 18 to 24 year old out-of-school youth participating in work experience and receiving supportive services through WIA youth program

funds made available through the Recovery Act. The waivers do not apply to 18 to 24 year old youth participating in other WIA youth program elements.

WDBs planning to serve 18 to 24 year old out-of-school youth with ARRA funds after September 30, 2009, must email their Local Program Liaison (LPL) by September 25, 2009, with the planned number of youth who will be served between October 1, 2009, and March 31, 2010 and how they will be served.

As we noted in Administrator's Memo 09-01, continuing provision of WIA services to the out-of-school 18 to 24 year old population with ARRA funds provides an opportunity for the workforce development system to innovate and implement effective service delivery strategies for this at-risk population. This could include participating in the regular WIA youth program or the Adult program. However, any youth participating in the regular WIA youth program or the Adult program would be included in the WIA performance measures. WDBs should continue to look at developing work experiences and other activities that expose youth to opportunities in "green" educational and career pathways.

For older out-of-school youth transitioning to the workplace following work experiences, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) may be promoted as an incentive for employers to hire disconnected youth. The Recovery Act expands the WOTC to disconnected youth ages 16 – 24 who are not regularly attending school, not readily employed and lacking basic skills.

ASSET:

These 18 to 24 year old individuals participating in work experience and supportive services only during the period of the waiver (October 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010) should be entered in ASSET as ARRASY.

ACTION SUMMARY STATEMENT: WDBs planning to serve 18 to 24 year old out-of-school youth with ARRA funds after September 30, 2009, must email that information to their Local Program Liaison.

CONTACT: Please contact your Local Program Liaison with questions related to this memo.